

ABSTRACT

5 A private network firewall **225** is treated as if it were a media gateway network entity. Doing so allows a media gateway controller **205** to exchange messages with the firewall **225** for purposes of securely setting up and tearing down pinholes in the firewall. With this ability
10 comes the ability to provide secure VoIP calls between public **250** and private **220** networks. A call server or media gateway controller **205**, that is approving the VoIP communication stream in a private packet data network requests, via a secure tunnel **230**, that the firewall **225** open a pinhole filter for a specific source and destination address pair corresponding to media gateway endpoints, **210** and **260** respectively, using either MGCP (H.248) or COPS messages, for instance. The pinhole filter is then disabled when the session is complete.

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